Interlinking of cities in NER

326. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared an ambitious project of interlinking the capital cities of seven States of North-East and Sikkim through a network of multi-lane expressways;

(b) if so, details of the project; and

(c) whether it is a road map for development of North-Eastern region and how far it would contribute to boosting economy of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) At present there is no proposal of interlinking the capital cities of seven States of North-East and Sikkim through a network of multi-lane expressways. However, there is a proposal to connect all State capitals which do not fall on the alignment of the Golden Quadrilateral or the North-South or East-West Corridors forming part of the National Highway Development Project (NHDP), through four lane highways with the NHDP. This includes capitals in the North East.

Highways in Orissa

327. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Highways in the country and the length in a kilometer, State-wise;

(b) the total number of roads declared in Orissa as Highways and fund allocated in the last five years, road-wise; and

(c) whether Orissa is getting less allocation in comparison to other neighbouring States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) There are 176 National Highways in the country with a total length of 58112 km. State-wise length of National Highways is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).